



GAU 3731

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : DAVISON et al.
Serial No. : 09/137,335
Filing Date : August 20, 1998
Title : CANNULA FOR RECEIVING SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS
Art Unit : 3731
Examiner : LEWIS, W.
Attorney Docket : A31-4000
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400
December 8, 1999

BOX IDS

Commissioner Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending application, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for pending U.S. applications. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth below.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) _____ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National stage.
- (b) _____ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
- (c) X After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a Notice of Allowance.

- 1) X A certification is given below, or
- 2) _____ Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$240.00) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) for consideration of this statement, or
- 3) _____ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

- (d) _____ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.

Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below.

- 1) _____ Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) \$130.00, or
- 2) _____ Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

(A duplicate of this Petition is attached)

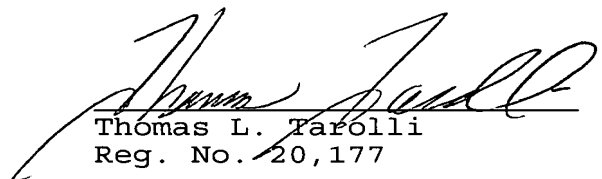
4. Certification (if applicable)

- (a) X The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart PCT application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement. A copy of the EPO Search Report is enclosed.

(b) _____ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency fees, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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